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The Highlander

Wednesday **June 30 2021** | Issue 492

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

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Abbey Gardens' Ashley McAllister and Brenda Smith flank Darrell Banks of Innova Disc Golf. They've teamed up for a new disc golf course at the West Guilford site that opens July 1. See the full story on page 24.

County extends shoreline bylaw review

By Sam Gillett

Haliburton County residents will soon have more opportunities to share their opinions on the contentious draft Shoreline Preservation Bylaw.

On June 23, County Council approved an extended consultation timeline, proposed by representatives from two external

consulting firms tasked with analyzing the draft bylaw. The shoreline bylaw governs development on waterfront properties and has already been scrutinized for more than a year.

In May, the County hired Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. (HESL) and J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. (JLR) to review the bylaw and provide options for

possible revisions.

Their review was originally slated to wrap up in June. However, it will now include another round of virtual open houses, surveys and multiple one-on-one interviews with municipal staff, conservation authorities, environmental organizations, lake associations and the construction and development business community.

This consultation process is slated for July 7 to 23, with the consultants providing a report to the County in late August. Opportunities to participate will be advertised on the County's social media channels, websites and in local news outlets.

Continued 'Consultant' on page 2

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Consultant: bylaw must suit community

Continued from page 1

"I've had some concerns voiced about the extended timeline," County Warden Liz Danielsen said. "Because this is such an involved process, I don't think we can afford to not have the focus on the consultation piece."

In its current form, the draft bylaw restricts development within 30 metres of the shoreline. While some environmental groups say that the restrictions would improve lake health, others in the construction and landscaping industry say the bylaw is too restrictive.

Consultants and scientific experts from JLR and HESL have already begun researching policy improvements. Their workplan outlines how to date they've dived into background research and begun comparing the County's practices with other municipalities, as well as reviewing existing scientific literature.

According to Jason Ferrigan, of JLR, the revised consultation process adds a new method of acquiring public feedback. One round of interviews and open houses will focus on the background and ideas for the future, the next regards feedback and ideas about the final direction of the bylaw.

"The key to that is understanding you community, and how to adapt your approaches to suit your community," Ferrigan told council.

Paul MacInnes, chair of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, said in an emailed statement that the coalition is satisfied with HESL and JLR's approach.

According to executive director Aggie Tose, the Haliburton County Home Builders Association "look[s] forward to working with the review



The County is reviewing a bylaw which governs waterfront development. File.

team and with Haliburton County Council as we move forward with a bylaw that is reasonable for property owners and sustains water quality."

Councillors unanimously supported the request for more public consultation.

"I'm ecstatic with your revised consultation program," Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said.

However, there were concerns about how best to truly represent County residents – especially when consulting stakeholders.

Carol Moffat, mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she's heard from landowners who feel their cottage or lake associations don't represent their interests.

"We need to be cautious around that," Moffat said. "And make sure we acknowledge and understand lake associations don't represent all property owners – but we [County council] do."

Under the current plan, lake associations and cottage groups would be considered stakeholders. That means representatives from each group would be interviewed and consulted throughout the review process.

The external review is set to cost the County \$41,605 plus applicable taxes. The extended public consultation process adds approximately four to six weeks to the plan's original schedule and will add an estimated \$13,000 to the final bill.

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HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE • INVESTMENTS • GROUP

Developers add eight units to Minden housing complex

By Lisa Gervais

The partners behind a proposed housing complex at Highway 35 and 21 in Minden have made changes that will see an additional eight units added.

The project came before council's June 24 meeting with requests for official plan and zoning amendments. It will be redesignated residential, from service and business area, and rezoned to residential type two-exception, from highway commercial - with the County of Haliburton's blessing in the near future.

Outside of planning requirements, the project will see a shift so that there are now 36 units in nine, two-story, fourplex buildings. The original proposal was for 28 units. However, they will remain two-bedroom and are designed for seniors, couples or small families.

Resident Bill Switzer donated the land and is working with the Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLHHC) to bring the affordable housing development to fruition.

Tim Welch of Tim Welch Consultants

said half the units will be ground-level accessible to help seniors age in place.

"We think it is a very strong proposal to increase the supply of affordable housing in Minden," Welch said of the unique public-private partnership.

Betsy Williamson of Williamson Williamson Architects added that after discussions with the MTO, they decided to alter the project, to accommodate setbacks. She said the units are facing the river and there is more parking and accessible parking.

"One of the things we're looking at doing is distinguishing everyone's front door," she said. She added it was important to them "that each family who lives in that development understands that this is their home and that the home is distinguished by different colours, maybe a change in plantings, and they really look at this larger development with individual eyes and can call these places home for quite a long time."

She said it's hoped the County will give its approval in August, with construction starting in September 2021, completion



A rendering of the newly-proposed housing complex in Minden. *Photo submitted.*

in October 2022, and occupancy that November.

Coun. Bob Carter said he wanted to thank all involved in the project.

"For working on this project for so long and so diligently. It's a little bit like going

into a race where people start building hurdles in the middle of the race and you don't know or expect that they're going to be there so thank you all for staying the course. Thank you for adding 36 housing units into our desperate environment."

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Focus on Crown land use

The County will open conversations with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to address the improper use of Crown land.

"If we don't make it clear what kind of community we want to have, and work towards it, we could end up with the wild west," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. In a letter to council, Moffatt outlined "serious and sharply-increasing concerns about public safety due to the amplified growth of incompatible uses of specific Crown land parcels in proximity to private property."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin compared the improper use of Crown land - including reports of firearm use in residential areas, urination, noise complaints and building docks - to an "animal."

"If we're not careful, it could eat us up," Devolin said.

In Moffatt's letter to the County, she included anonymous accounts of people using assault-style weapons and explosives near residential areas.

County staff are also directed to communicate with other similar municipalities across Ontario to garner support for enhanced regulation of Crown land use.

County eyes short-term rental review

Haliburton County Council will conduct a review of short-term rentals.

All four municipalities drafted letters that encourage the County to examine how rentals, often hosted through sites such as Airbnb, could be regulated and licensed.

In the past couple of years, Haliburton's municipalities have discussed the impact of short-term rentals - both positive and negative.

While private rentals can bring in tourism dollars, there has been concerns over the conduct of renters, as well as increased use of sewage systems and noise complaints.

"Before a staff report, County council should have a conversation to see where we want to go with this," Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said.

Warden Liz Danielsen added she's "almost certain" that developing new bylaws for short-term rentals will require hiring a third-party consultant.

Currently, none of the four municipalities in Haliburton has regulated short-term rentals or introduced licencing requirements.

Library funding approved

The County approved use of \$60,000 in provincially-funded safe restart funds to renovate Haliburton County's library

website.

"COVID has forced the library to look at a very different way of doing business - it's likely that will continue for a very long time," CAO Mike Rutter said.

During 2020, the library saw unprecedented use of its online resources. The new website will aim to make the site more accessible and allow library staff to manage events.

Since the request was prompted by COVID-19 delivery changes, Rutter said the request meets criteria for use of those provincially administered funds.

Devolin said he has borrowed many E-books and audio books this past year and was excited to support the request. "I'm a huge fan and gladly would see us support this," he said.

While the cost surprised some councillors, Roberts said it was explained how a library website requires in-depth design, and integrates multiple complicated service-delivery systems. *(County news compiled by Sam Gillett)*

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DYSART ET AL NEWS



Dysart council met June 8. *File.*

Clean financial audit

Council approved 2020's audited financial statements. The audit was marked "clean," meaning it uncovered no accounting mistakes or issues with Dysart et al's financial practices.

"There needs to be a little pat on the back to your management, and to yourselves as councillors," said Thomas Turnbull, an accountant with Grant Thornton LLP, who completed the audit.

There has been an increase in cash and cash equivalents, mainly because of fewer purchases by the municipality this past year. However, COVID-19 has still impacted the financial statements: the municipality's \$475,000 in safe restart funding is reflected in revenues. The municipality's revenue base is consistent this year primarily due to an increased tax rates of 3.65 per cent.

Dysart et al's environmental services exceeded their expected budget in 2020, increasing to \$3.76 million. According to the report, that's primarily due to ongoing costs related to waste management plant shutdowns and post-shutdown management.

Road works and new speed limits

Certain planned road resurfacing projects around Dysart et al will be delayed until 2022.

Poor road conditions on South Street, Winkler Road and Boomerang Road won't be remedied until 2022. Rob Camelon of the municipality's public works department explained that construction in these areas means any work done this year could be damaged by heavy machinery and overuse.

Funds that aren't used on these roads will be diverted to resurface Harrier Road.

Council voted for new 50 km/hr speed limits around Haliburton Lake, Ross Lake, Percy Lake and Irish Line roads. According to staff, new signs should be installed by July 1. Council also approved a \$3 increase for parking fines across the municipality.

New public works position

The municipality will begin the search to fill a new public works administrative position. The hire will help with external and internal communications, health and safety procedures and more.

"We have customer service as a goal," Mayor Andrea Roberts said. "This will hopefully be a first point of contact for the public works department as well."

CAO Tamara Wilbee outlined how this could help the roads and public works department in quickly addressing the public's road concerns and other complaints.

"We really hope that the position will help with the communications with the public," Wilbee said. "We want to be more proactive with those things."

Staff estimate the position will cost Dysart et al around \$65,000 annually: according to Wilbee, it will relieve the workload of other staff in the public works department.

Roberts said, "Every time you add a position, you want to catch that sweet spot to bring in a staff member when there is plenty of work, but not when current staff members are so far extended."

Coun. John Smith said he wanted to see a way to measure the success of new positions: "many organizations would look at a position like this and say 'where are we today, and where are we going to be tomorrow, as a result of this position?'"

According to Smith, council should be looking for assurances that any positions created must have a measurable impact on the community.

Coun. Walt McKechnie said the municipality's personnel committee, of which he is the chairperson, is "positive" the position will increase efficiencies.

"I think the person we hire will make the public works department work a lot smoother," McKechnie said. (*Dysart et al news compiled by Sam Gillett*)

Highlander news



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Challenging year marks HHHS quarter century

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) marked a number of milestones as it met for its 25th annual general meeting June 24.

CEO and president Carolyn Plummer noted it was only five years ago that a large in-person celebration was held at the Pinestone to mark a number of significant anniversaries - and how much has changed since then, “in what we hope is the winding down of a global pandemic.”

The Haliburton Hospital turns 85, Minden Hospital 65, Hyland Crest 55, the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary 50, Highland Wood 25, HHHS 25 and the HHHS Foundation 25.

Plummer noted that in 2022, it will be the 100-year anniversary of the very first health care facility in the area, the Wilberforce Red Cross outpost.

She talked about the pandemic and “unimaginable ways in which our world has changed and how these changes have affected us all.”

She discussed the need to adapt to changing circumstances, including opening the COVID-19 assessment centre; increasing staff by 25 per cent; repurposing and adjusting spaces including walls between hospitals and long-term care homes. Those walls came down June 23 with 80 per cent of staff vaccinated.

Despite fewer visits to the ER, she said the

service still had more than 18,000 patient visits and did more than 10,000 diagnostic tests.

She highlighted improved medical records’ keeping; the new virtual primary care clinic and long-term care successes such as keeping residents COVID-safe while continuing programming.

She said community programs had also continued to the best of their ability. She discussed the physiotherapy move and mental health and addictions work. She also reported \$1.5 million in infrastructure upgrades and enhancements, such as lighting upgrades and replacement of boilers and chillers.

Plummer also said that despite budgetary demands, the service ended with just a \$17,000 deficit, which she termed a “remarkable feat.” She said it wouldn’t have been possible without the foundation, auxiliaries and funders. Thomas Turnbull of auditors Grant Thornton offered an unqualified audit opinion.

It was also announced that Kathy Newton, vice president of support services and CFO, was retiring June 25 after five years with the service.

Plummer thanked her and all staff, volunteers, the community, the Foundation and auxiliaries.

Co-chief of staff, Dr. Steve Ferracuti said the health services’ attention had been focused on pandemic preparations. He said COVID had not hit them as hard



Carolyn Plummer and the HHHS board held its annual general meeting on June 24. *File.*

as they feared but, while “numbers were small, preparations were not small.” The other major undertaking was new clinical information systems.

The foundation’s Lisa Tompkins announced \$464,141 in total funding transfers for capital equipment and program

support, including completing the push for new vital signs monitors.

The board also saw some turnover. New members are Ted Parent, Charlotte Snider and Sharon Kassalainen, replacing John Kay, Dave Bonham and Theresa MacDermid.

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- Not-for-Profit of the Year
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MINDEN HILLS NEWS



The township hopes to lock down its arena debenture soon. *File.*

Review of RV use in township

People wanting to live in recreational vehicles or trailers while building homes in Minden Hills can soon do so without fear of a bylaw officer showing up on their property.

However, there'll have to be more work before changing the bylaw about using RVs and trailers to temporarily camp out on private property.

Tying up a file from a couple of years ago, planners D.M. Wills and Associates brought a report to council. They said, "this has been an identified issue in the township."

Coun. Lisa Schell said she may be in conflict as she both owns a travel trailer and has a building permit. However, "When I look at the neighbouring municipalities, they have not had this issue because I don't think they're as stringent with the rules as we have been."

She said as long as work is being done on a build it should not be an issue.

She added other townships allow people to put RVs and trailers on private property for short periods of time. In Minden Hills, she said it's happening but the only complaints she's getting are from people dealing with bylaw, not neighbours.

Coun. Bob Carter said the camping issue should be separated from the RVs during construction. He said that rule is "ludicrous." However, he said the camping

issue required public consultation.

Coun. Jean Neville said she didn't have a problem with either use.

Council resolved to send the RVs or trailers at home builds amendment to the July 29 meeting with a further report on the camping issue to come at a later date following public consultation.

Schell said she would also like to have the bylaw department have input.

The matter was raised after builders with a fifth wheel at a Deep Bay Road property said they got a visit from a bylaw officer recently and were told they couldn't camp out. They also said people should be able to visit friends and family with RVs and trailers for short periods of time.

"There must be a way to make this bylaw more balanced and fair," Larry and Charlene Small wrote in a June 7 letter to council.

Clean audit

Minden Hills received a clean audit opinion from KPMG for the year ending Dec. 31, 2020 at its June 24 meeting, which is the highest level of assurance that can be received under Canadian auditing standards.

The Sudbury-based firm's Oscar Poloni said the township books were "fairly presented in all material respects."

Poloni said Minden Hills has about \$10 million in revenue, and if they found mistakes that were \$22,000 and higher,

they would bring them before council if not corrected.

"What you've got is a municipality that is well-funded from a financial perspective, you've got \$7 million in the bank. You do have debt but the debt isn't necessarily high and it's restricted to capital programs you've got good collectability in terms of your taxes, where you're not exposed to high levels of arrears and you've got \$7 million in reserves built up," Poloni said.

Securing loan for arena

Council gave director of finance, Lorrie Blanchard, the go-ahead to approach Infrastructure Ontario to lock in the debenture for the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Council asked Blanchard to put the wheels in motion to borrow \$11.4 million over a 25-year-period.

Carter said, "I'd like to get this put to bed as quickly as possible and get it done."

Blanchard responded, "That's great. I'm really happy and I hope council is as well in terms of, as Coun. Carter has said, put this to bed and I hope that council is pleased with the final result. We got there. It took awhile given that we started this process in 2019 trying to anticipate what numbers might be. I would say that you guys did a good job." (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

Highlander news

Point in Time AGM hears about extraordinary year

By Sam Gillett

It was a year like no other for the Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents.

At the organization's second virtual annual general meeting June 22, executive director Marg Cox thanked staff and board members for their work during extraordinary times.

"Everyone's been feeling the pressure. I thank the staff so much for rising to the occasion," Cox said.

The meeting was a chance for members to hear from the organization's board, and take stock of a year where virtual program delivery took centre stage.

"We know that COVID has been hard on everyone," Cox said. "We know that it's really been a time where more people have been talking about their mental health."

According to Point in Time, youth who received support from the centre reported that education and mental health was the biggest impact of the pandemic on their lives.

The centre reports that 201 teens attended the Haliburton Youth Hub in 2020, 209 children and families received counselling services, and 210 children received service from early intervention workers. Thirteen youth were supported through the youth

justice centre and 30 kids attended last summer's day camp program. Altogether, 769 children and youth attended Point in Time services throughout the year.

According to surveys, 100 per cent of youth served and 90 per cent of caregivers were satisfied with Point in Time's services.

Cox explained how the centre's staff all completed anti-oppression training and anti-racism training in the past year. They've also begun trauma-informed training.

Thanks to community fundraising, Point in Time hit a fundraising milestone of \$100,000 in their push for enhanced internet services for County teens.

The organization's yearly audit was marked "clean," meaning no noticeable accounting mistakes or risky financial practices. Point in Time is primarily funded by the Ministry of Health which contributed \$1,191,137 this past year.

In total, the organization's revenues increased: they reported \$2.9 million in revenue, up from \$2.5 million in the previous fiscal year.

In 2020, The Ministry of Health funded the organization with \$97,529 in COVID-19 funding as well as \$4,637 in grants funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.



Point in Time is a not-for-profit which provides support services to children, youth and families in Haliburton County. Photo submitted by Point in Time.

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TheHighlander

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Happy 'racist' Canada Day

Like many of you, I have been contemplating whether or not to celebrate Canada Day this year.

The discovery of 966 unmarked Indigenous children's graves at residential schools in Cowessess, Sask. and Kamloops, BC. has impacted many of us.

However, if I am completely honest, I was not entirely shocked by these findings. As a university student who minored in history, I had studied John A. Macdonald and his architecture of not only Confederation but the Indian Act.

Then, and now, I believe the government of the day had a policy of genocide. It was not called genocide then, but by definition, it was. It is the intentional destruction of a particular group through killing, serious physical or mental harm, preventing births and forcibly transferring children to another group.

The term has now been applied to the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, particularly in the final reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (which discusses residential schools) and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry.

I suppose what did shock me - and will

continue to shock me - is the numbers of Indigenous children that died in these schools.

So, while cancelling Canada Day might seem a powerful gesture, it is really too simplistic, and a cop out for all of us.

Instead, we should be revisiting our history. We need to know what was done and why it was done to understand and hopefully stop it in future.

We cannot simply say it was done by our ancestors. Sure, we didn't establish the Indian Act, build residential schools and oversee the deaths of children. However, we must acknowledge that systemic racism is part of our past and is still occurring today. We need to reflect upon what we can do to try to break the pattern.

First, let's drop the notion that Canada is superior to other parts of the world when it comes to racism. Let's not pretend we are better than the United States, for example.

How about the transatlantic slave trade that benefitted pre-Confederation Canada? We have a history of anti-Semitism and anti-Chinese policies. Let's not forget the internment of Ukrainian Canadians in the First World War or Japanese Canadians in the Second World War.



By Lisa Gervais

Some might remember the fatal police shootings of young Black men in the late 1980s, Michael Wade Lawson in Mississauga and Anthony Griffin in Montreal. Or the news of the wrongful conviction of Donald Marshall Jr., a Mi'kmaq man from Nova Scotia. Incidences of police and other anti-Black discrimination continue into today. For example, why are more Black people being impacted by COVID-19 than the rest of the population?

We need only go back a few weeks for an egregious case of Islamophobia when a 20-year-old van driver killed a family in London, ON. And why is it that Indigenous adults are filling our prisons, disproportionate to our population?

So, cancel Canada Day if you must. Use the time to research our nation's history. Examine your own conscience and ask yourself if you are racist. Most of us are in some way. Then, decide what you are going to do about it.

COVID CORNER

Clarifying current vaccine recommendations

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) continually updates recommendations based on emerging scientific evidence.

Here is the latest from June 17, reflecting the increasing availability of mRNA vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna) in Canada, as well as the risk of VITT associated with viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca, Janssen), and emerging evidence of a better immune response when a dose of AstraZeneca is followed by a dose of Pfizer.

For first doses, NACI recommends that: (1) An mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) is preferred unless there is an allergy to an mRNA vaccine, (2) A viral vector vaccine (AstraZeneca, Janssen) may be offered to start a vaccine series when an mRNA vaccine is inaccessible or not suitable because of an allergy to an mRNA vaccine.

For second doses, NACI recommends that: (1) Individuals who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA product for their second dose. If the same product is not available, or the product used for the first dose is unknown, another mRNA vaccine is interchangeable to complete the series. (2) An mRNA vaccine is now preferred as the second dose for individuals who received a first dose with AstraZeneca, based on emerging evidence of a potentially better

immune response from this mixed vaccine schedule, and to reduce the potential risk of VITT associated with viral vector vaccines. (Be reassured, two doses of AstraZeneca provide good protection against infection and very good protection against severe disease and hospitalization.)

Vaccine interchangeability ('mixed vaccine schedule') data suggest a potentially better immune response, including against variants of concern, when a first dose with AstraZeneca is followed by a dose of the Pfizer, compared to two doses of AstraZeneca. Receiving an mRNA vaccine as a second dose reduces the rare risk of VITT associated with viral vectors. The rate of VITT after the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine appears lower than with the first dose but has increased over time, with current estimates 1 per 600,000 vaccinated.

There is still no clear causal relationship established between mRNA vaccines and myocarditis and pericarditis. NACI is not making any new recommendations based on the case reports at this time. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and NACI continue to closely monitor.

As much as possible it is recommended that COVID-19 vaccines should be given at least 14 days after and 28 days before other vaccines. This helps avoid possible overlapping side effects and potential interference to immune response.

Recommended minimum interval between first and second doses for Pfizer is 21 days and for Moderna 28 days. The risks associated with delaying the second vaccine dose is increased with the emergence of the Delta variant in Ontario. There is lower vaccine effectiveness with one dose compared to two doses for both Pfizer and AstraZeneca against the Delta variant. Pfizer vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease increased to about 88 per cent after two doses, from about 36 per cent with one dose. Delaying second dose to try to match mRNA product therefore delays the increased protection obtained from the completed vaccine series. Receiving first and second shots is critical to complete the full series.

Forecasted supplies of Pfizer vaccines to Ontario are: 938,340 from June 28 to July 4; 348,660 from July 5 to 11; 558,090 from July 12 to 18. Moderna allotted vaccines to Ontario are 1,512,840 from June 28 to July 4. Supply of AstraZeneca is 250,000 from June 28 to July 4.

Any vaccine reduces the risk of infection for yourself, your family and your community, so getting the vaccine that is recommended at the time is the right choice.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

HAVE AN OPINION? Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Rachel Lower took this photo June 22 of a ruffed grouse chick while walking down the IB&O in Tory Hill.

LETTERS

Waterfront taxes and water levels

Dear editor,

Water levels are much lower this year than usual in the Highlands and surrounding areas.

Some creeks and ponds are almost completely dried up, even with the recent rains.

But if you drive down to the Trent-Severn Waterway system, you'll see water flowing rapidly through the locks. It's being drained from the Highlands and surrounding areas into the TSW so boaters can go through the locks on to other lakes by paying only a minimal fee.

Cottagers and property owners in the Highlands and surrounding areas, who pay taxes for their waterfront properties, are being penalized.

Because their water levels are continuously dropping to the point where they can no longer go boating, many have to take out their boats as early as August, while boaters on the TSW continue to boat until the lock system closes for the season.

Why should property owners pay the extra tax for waterfront property when they cannot use their lakes and rivers for the full boating season? Water levels are already starting to drop and it's only June.

What one finds difficult to comprehend is why our municipal leaders, who are supposed to represent the taxpayers' best interest and needs, aren't doing anything about this? When the subject is brought up, their repeated reply is it's out of our control,

there's nothing we can do about it.

They don't seem to have the foresight to see that the longer water levels remain higher the longer people will stay up and come up more often which means they will spend more money to help support the local economy.

Paying the extra tax for the privilege of owing waterfront property without actually having water in front of one's property to enjoy, needs to be addressed. It is like paying for a full meal when you're only being served half.

If the municipalities can't provide what they're taxing us for, then they need to lower waterfront taxes.

**Harold Hutchings
Wilberforce**

Rules exist in rural Ontario

Dear editor,

With the influx of people relocating to the area, the serene, quiet, slow-paced lifestyle we once knew is no more.

New challenges encompass needs and demands without forethought as to how such will be accomplished and accepted.

Those who insist on tearing up gravel roads with ATVs and other off-road vehicles cause destruction of such surfaces without any consideration for others.

Obviously, lack of common sense and immaturity runs rampant.

The 66-foot open concession road

allowance between every five lots is owned by the municipality in question. Prior to any person or persons altering any changes to said allowance, written permission and bylaw by the municipality is required, with input from adjacent land owners who may have vested interests in any change or alteration.

Fines could be laid by the municipality, so caution to the wind by those who think because it is rural Ontario there are no rules and or laws.

As for new anticipated setback from the high-water mark, people preach to save and protect our environment and lakes as long as it is not in their backyard and does not apply to them.

Let's enjoy the beauty and tranquility of our area and subdue the urge to be an extension of the outskirts of the GTA.

**Beverly MacDuff
Gooderham**

Freedom

Dear editor,

Thank you, John Galt (June 10, 2021) and Tom Needham (June 17, 2021) for your thoughts.

The claim that lockdowns are of net benefit to society is a weak one.

Sweden never initiated a lockdown in the same way Canada has, despite the media trying to claim they 'backtracked'. Sure, their death rate was higher than other Scandinavian countries, however, at the end of 2020, they ranked 22nd out of the 30 EU

countries in death rate.

Same with Florida which only had lockdown measures very briefly at the beginning of the pandemic. Florida's death rate is somewhere in the middle of the pack of the 50 U.S. states.

South Dakota, the only state to never issue lockdown orders, has a death curve that almost exactly matches North Dakota which had lockdowns and mask mandates despite the similar demographics and population density.

Of course, lockdown proponents like to use island-nations in the Southern Hemisphere as examples of how they work. But if one plots the death rate against stringency of lockdowns for all countries in the world, you get a 'paint splatter,' there is little or no correlation.

Professor Douglas Allen at SFU sought to quantify the cost-benefit trade-offs of lockdowns in Canada in his April 2021 paper COVID Lockdowns Costs/ Benefits. He concluded, with a much more comprehensive analysis than most Public Health models, that lockdowns could have cost Canada as much as 282 times more than it added in value. This ratio is a result of risky financial experiments, small business destruction, and a destroyed year for young people (trust me, I was in online university this year).

Why is it that lockdown proponents refuse to address these points and instead resort to bemoaning the moral failure of those who ask the hard questions?

**Graham Johnson
Dorset**

Highlander business

All eyes on new Haliburton optometrists

By Lisa Harrison

Highlanders have more options to see clearly now that two optometrists have joined Haliburton Vision Care Centre.

Amardeep Bhogal and her husband, Kinderpal Singh, hail from Ontario and England. Singh has completed the International Optometric Bridging Program at the University of Waterloo.

"We're excited to have the new doctors join our team at Haliburton Vision Care," said Lauren Wilson, co-owner of the centre with her husband, Brett.

"They are very knowledgeable and ... very nice people and have such positive attitudes on helping people and making sure they get the best possible care."

Bhogal said she and her husband are "very excited to be here in the community."

"We are looking forward to bringing our skills and experience to the practice to help provide our patients with professional and courteous care. We are continuously updating our professional knowledge to help provide the best service we can."

The couple joins the centre's optician, Elsie Deocampo, to round out the team. Bhogal and Singh will be at the centre on Mondays and Fridays. Evening appointments are available.

Bhogal received a B.Sc. with honours from Western University in London, Ontario and obtained her doctor of optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry in Boston,

Massachusetts in 2014. She has worked across the Greater Toronto Area since then and is also qualified to practice in England, where she worked in 2017.

"I always felt like vision was such a critical component of our day-to-day lives," said Bhogal of the reason for her career choice.

"While in school, I enjoyed the physics and anatomy of the eye and was amazed with the connection to the brain. I felt like optometry was a great profession where I would have direct patient connections, while making a meaningful impact."

Singh obtained a B.Sc. in Optometry with honours from the University of Bradford, England in 2013 and completed his clinical training near London, England. Family experiences led him to this career.

"Eye disease was very prominent in my family and I experienced first hand the effects it has on a person's day-to-day quality of life," said Singh.

"Accompanying my family members to all of their appointments really sparked an interest in optometry for me, which led me to where I am today."

That route included independent work throughout England and attending and organizing international outreach trips to communities in need in countries such as Ethiopia, Greece, Lebanon and India.

Singh and Bhogal currently live north of Toronto and will commute for now. They're familiar with cottage country, spending much of each summer in Muskoka, and



From left: Optician Elsie Deocampo, co-owner Lauren Wilson and new optometrists Kinderpal Singh and Amardeep Bhogal. Photo by Sam Gillett.

look forward to experiencing the Highlands.

"We love being in nature and are avid travellers," said Bhogal. "We enjoy hiking, camping, canoeing and gardening. We definitely believe the Highlands will accommodate our interests."

Haliburton Vision Care Centre is located at 7217 Gelert Rd. next to LifeLabs in Haliburton. For more information or to book an appointment, visit haliburtonvisioncare.com or call 705-457-9500.

Highlands
summer
festival
Live Theatre



SORRY: NO COMEDY TONIGHT!

It was 21 years ago, when 17 live theatre enthusiasts laid the ground work for the Highlands Summer Festival. And here we are, two decades later, with one of the most vibrant summer theatre companies in Ontario.

It has been a delight to watch as this company grew, producing live theatre for our community. The biggest reward comes in the endorsement our efforts receive from our patrons. For this we thank you.

We may have been sidelined because of the pandemic this season, but trust us when we say the passion that built the Highlands Summer Festival is alive and eager to see the curtains open and the lights come up again on another season...

SEE YOU AT THE THEATRE..... IN 2022.

Highlander arts

High notes not high prices for Opera Studio

By Sam Gillett

The Highlands Opera Studio is partnering with accomplished local vocalists to provide pay-what-you-can singing lessons over Zoom.

Whether an aspiring pop singer or a practiced choir member looking to try out a new style, the half-hour lessons are open to any, at whatever rate they can pay.

"I think that singing is something that should be for everyone – it shouldn't just be for people that can afford exorbitant prices," said Lauren Margison, a singer who'll be teaching with the studio.

The project was made possible through a Local Initiative Project (LIP) Grant distributed by the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC).

Margison is an award-winning soprano who tours internationally and has shared the stage with Gordon Lightfoot and Rufus Wainright. She studied with Elaine Overholt, a vocal instructor who worked on Broadway blockbusters such as Chicago and Hairspray.

Each one-on-one lesson will begin with general introductions.

"It would be starting off with a Zoom consultation," Margison said. "[I'll] figure out what sort of genre and what their goals would be."

Then, from her Zoom screen she'll sing alongside her students, whether beginners or seasoned crooners, and offer pointers from her career.

"I've picked up these vocal tidbits," Margison said.

But what if the thought of singing in front of a professional seems intimidating?

"I would say, give it a chance," Margison said. "I am possibly one of the least judgemental people in the world. I make it a very, very welcoming experience."

Valerie Kuinka, general & co-artistic director of Highlands Opera Studio, said she hopes the lessons can also alleviate the lingering mental health effects of COVID-19.

"The ability to have fun together or alone by expressing oneself through the act of making music is a celebration of the human spirit and can be essential to mental health," wrote Kuinka in a press release.

And the project comes as the musical world is emerging from a difficult past 14 months.

"It's been really hard," Margison said. While she hasn't been able to tour or do shows, she said she's enjoyed spending more time with her parents and becoming rooted in her surroundings – she splits her time between Minden and Stouffville.

During that time, she said she's been finding some of her own inspiration in Canadian classics.

"I seem to be listening a lot to Canadian folk singers – the golden age of Canadian folk singers," said Margison. "Because we are here in Canada, I've been lucky enough to look at the pandemic more



Lauren Margison is a soprano. Photo submitted.

philosophically. I've really kind of gravitated to loving where I am and loving the natural world."

Now, she's excited to share her love of singing with new and experienced singers alike over Zoom.

Pay-what-you-can lessons will be available until March 2022. People also have the option to sponsor lessons for others.

Those interested can email lauren@highlandsoperastudio.com



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Highlander grads

J.D. Hodgson graduation a two-day celebration

By Kirk Winter

Students at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton were treated to a special graduation experience this year. It began with a virtual recorded graduation and awards ceremony posted to the school's website June 22. Festivities concluded June 23 when grads and guests came to the school one at a time by appointment for a photo-op, to receive their diploma, awards and a gift from the school.

The taped presentation featured addresses by principal David Waito, trustee Gary Brohman, valedictorian Teagan Hamilton and a special message from newly enshrined Haliburton Sports Hall of Fame athlete Taly Williams who also spoke on behalf of his sister Lesley Tashin who will be joining him on the outside wall of the A.J. LaRue Arena.

Waito told students, "Grade 8 graduation is a rite of passage, marking a time when we formally leave one stage of life and enter into another. In our culture, Grade 8 graduation is often regarded as the end of childhood and the beginning of adolescence when our youth take a significant step towards adulthood. This is certainly something to celebrate and so we hope that wherever you are, whoever you are with, that you are celebrating today."

The principal's message also directly addressed the disappointment many graduates are feeling about a year truncated by COVID-19.

"I know that this is not likely the Grade 8 year or graduation you imagined it might be. It is OK to be disappointed if you are. I also wish we could celebrate differently together, and there are many things about this pandemic that are just not fair."

Valedictorian Teagan Hamilton also spoke of the impact the pandemic has had on the graduating class.

"This past year has been one like no other. We have all lost something to this pandemic, but we have made it so far we can make it to the end. We may not have had the last year of elementary school look the way that we thought it would look but we still managed to have fun while still following all the safety measures."

Hamilton congratulated all of the JDH graduates saying, "I know this is probably not what you imagined for your Grade 8 graduation ... you have all worked so hard to get here. There may have been some times when you never thought you would get here but you did."

Dozens of graduates were recognized for excellence in visual arts, media arts, drama, English, French, geography, history, math, music, health and physical education, science, dance and core French.

Cheyenne Degeer led the pack with excellence in five subjects followed by Sierra Moore, Parker Pietryszyn and Annabelle Borgdorff who were each recognized in four individual subjects.

The awards were divided into six categories covering the gamut of student



Valedictorian, Teagan Hamilton. Photo submitted.

strength and abilities, and the following students were announced as winners:

- Academic Excellence: Graydon Kubinec, Cheyenne Degeer and Teagan Hamilton.
- Outstanding Distinction for students who are well rounded academically, extra-curricularly and demonstrate good citizenship and leadership – Hannah Sharp, Sierra Moore and Parker Pietryszyn.
- Citizenship Award for helpful and pleasant individuals who always go beyond what is asked of them – Jackson Titus, Erika Hoare and Beckham Reynolds.

- OPC Award for students who demonstrate outstanding leadership in their class and community – Annabelle Borgdorff and Colby Coumbs.

- Rising Star for students who have demonstrated notable academic growth – Braiden Bailey, Isaac Lee and Nathan Morrison.

- Jaguar Spirit Award for demonstrating exceptional resilience and compassion, and effectively bringing people a sense of togetherness during the pandemic – Magnum Moshenko.



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Highlander grads

Archie Stouffer grads nailed resiliency

By Kirk Winter

Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden hosted a virtual ceremony for their Grade 8 graduates June 21, featuring addresses by departing principal Jane Austin and valedictorian Emily Fitzell.

Dozens of deserving students were also recognized for their academic success, hard work, citizenship and willingness to help others.

Austin, who is moving to Ridgewood Elementary School in Coboconk this fall, reminded students that they were “transitioning from one part of their education to another.”

Austin spoke of choices the students will make and the impact those decisions will have on their future.

“Choices you make will lead you in directions you may have never imagined. The trick is to be confident and brave. Embrace opportunity. Look for adventure. Make the best choices with the information that you have and if you need more information take the time to seek it out so that you have what you need to make the best decision for you.”

Fitzell took the graduating class on a trip down memory lane in her address, reminding students of the shared experiences they have had together over the last 10 years. Fitzell spoke fondly of trips to the Yearley Outdoor Education Centre, sports that got a little too competitive, exploding pumpkins and the antics of

friends that brought a smile to everyone’s faces.

“Archie (Stouffer) has not only taught us ... math and science,” Fitzell continued, “but over these years has also taught us valuable lessons in patience, collaboration, courage, confidence, compromise, perseverance and responsibility. All of these have helped us prepare for the last year or so that no one could have predicted. We have gone from one routine to another, in school to online, over and over again. Just when we got used to one routine we would have to switch to another one. This, my classmates, has taught us resilience and we nailed it.”

The program was capped off by 25 different Archie Stouffer graduates being recognized with awards that included having an average of 75 per cent or greater, 80 per cent or greater and individual subject recognition for excellence in the arts, mathematics, English, French, science, geography and history. Nicole Lee was the only dual-subject winner being recognized for proficiency in French and the arts.

Awards

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Grade 8 honours awards with the following students being selected by staff as deserving:

- Academic Excellence Award – Logan Beers, Emily Fitzell, Nicole Lee, Alissa Mantle.



Valedictorian, Emily Fitzell, got a surprise visit at her home. Photo submitted.

- Alan Walker Memorial Award for demonstrated citizenship – Miles Bascombe.
- Character Education Award – Adam Davis, Quinn Higgins.
- Sarah Bloomfield Award presented to a student who is always a spark in the classroom – Andy Lippolis.

- Principal All-Round Student Award for a student who has demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, citizenship and extra-curricular activities – Emery Bagshaw.
- Arcadia Masonic Lodge Award for students who have worked hard to succeed—Dalton Fairey, Aaron Neave.



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HAPPY CANADA DAY, HALIBURTON!

Highlander education

Fleming dean recognized for 'selfless' leadership

By Sam Gillett

Angela Pind, acting dean for the Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD), has won one of Fleming College's new spotlight awards for promoting a "positive, equitable and supportive workplace culture."

"I was super shocked," Pind, who assumed the position last fall, said.

Five staff members are being celebrated for positive contributions to the school's learning environment.

Pind started her position just as HSAD was entering one of its most precarious school years to date.

"The challenge is the uncertainty," Pind said, explaining how COVID-19 influenced the faculty's operations. "We always know and have a clear focus on the students and achieving the goals they have."

Pind was quick to mention that her team of administrative and teaching staff are key to the school's success.

"The people that I work with at Fleming, are just the hardest working people focused on our students," she said.

Shelley Schell, the Haliburton campus operation manager, nominated Pind. She also predicted Pind would be quick to deflect the praise to her educational team members.

"That's just the type of person she is," Schell said. "[Pind] is absolutely inspiring in her abilities, in her commitment: she is so deserving of this award."

Schell said there has been countless

moments when Pind's leadership has made a difference in the lives of her and her colleagues. "She supports everyone, and cares about everyone. She is so selfless in her approach."

Helping guide the school through the pandemic required, in Schell's words, Pind's "extraordinary ability to grasp the big picture." That involved implementing new safety protocols, helping faculty transition courses to virtual environments and more.

While she splits her time between Peterborough and Haliburton, Pind said she's appreciated seeing how well staff integrate into the community.

"I think that what I observe in each of the staff there, is that they are Fleming employees: they are Haliburton [County] community members."

Pind said that an especially gratifying part of the job in Haliburton County is also seeing her students become community-minded while they learn techniques of art and design.

"They're learning that in the context of being a member of the community," Pind said.

Pind herself has engaged with the community's concerns: from gas station conversations about COVID-19 concerns to discussing community events at staff meetings.

Throughout the year, Pind said she developed ways to support staff and



Angela Pind, the acting dean of the Haliburton School of Art and Design, was given one of the college's new "spotlight" awards. Photo submitted by HSAD.

students with the waves of emotion surrounding COVID-19.

"It's acknowledging that anxiety," Pind said. She said that open communication –

and lots of it – is her preferred method of leadership. "I think having an open door lets people bring in whatever they need to talk about."

INFORMATION PAGE

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development.

Please see below and visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for more information and application deadlines.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Operations Manager (Roads)
- Equipment Operator (Temporary Full Time)
- Equipment Labourer (Short Term)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Operator (Full Time)
- Operator (Casual)

BUILDING/BYLAW/PLANNING

- Building Inspector

A Message from the Fire Department

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. We recommend enjoying fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, rather than at home. If someone still chooses to have a family fireworks or an informal neighborhood display, they must check with their local fire department about regulations regarding fireworks.

Here are some important safety tips to be followed:

- Apply for and receive an approved fireworks permit
- Appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks.
- For dud fireworks, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind (less than 25 km/h) conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.

Camping Fuel Canisters

Please bring empty camping fuel canisters to a hazardous waste event. Do not put camping fuel canisters in the Blue Box.

Important Property Tax Information

The 2021 Final Residential tax bills were mailed on June 25th, 2021. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the July due date, please contact our office.

The Final tax bill will be payable in two installments; July 23rd, 2021 and September 17th, 2021. This bill has been calculated using the 2021 assessment multiplied by the 2021 applicable tax rate(s), less the interim billing amount. Payments received after June 14th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for July. Please contact our office for a current balance.

The Final Commercial/Industrial/Multi-residential tax bills are anticipated to be mailed in August. Bills with both commercial and residential assessments will be mailed together at that time.

Payment Methods:

- Cash and debit payments are currently suspended.
- On-line or telephone banking.
- Payment at financial institutions.
- Cheque-by mail or deposit in the drop box. The secure (locked) drop box is labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp.

Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

July 29
Regular Council Meeting

August 26
Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in July, August and December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Waste Reduction Tip

You can drop off textiles (in good and poor condition) in the donation bin at Scotch Line Landfill. Good textiles are re-used and poor quality textiles are recycled.

Highlander community

Last roar – with pride – for Minden Lioness Club

By Sam Gillett

After more than 35 years of community service, the Minden Lioness club is no more.

Lions International, the governing body of all Lions and Lioness clubs, announced they were cancelling Lioness club insurance effective July 1.

“We had no say,” said Lioness Janet Readman, current vice-president of the club. “Our members are sad.”

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said he hopes the club members can continue to work in the community - even after the Lioness club disbands.

“[Community groups] add all kinds of services and dimensions to our communities, to lose any of them is a tragic loss,” Devolin said.

Lions International has been gradually encouraging Lioness clubs to integrate into the main Lions club structure since 2018.

But for Readman, a Lioness in Minden since 1988, being a Lioness was a unique experience.

“We liked where we were,” Readman said, mentioning how the Lioness meeting schedule was easier to fit in her weekly schedule. “It worked out perfectly for us.”

Lioness Kelly Moore agreed. She said being a Lioness also meant being part of a tight-knit community.

“We didn’t take ourselves too seriously,” Moore said. “We were always joking around, it was just fun.”

While Lioness clubs began as a way for women, initially barred from becoming Lions, to serve their communities, it flourished into an international collection of clubs focused on small-scale fundraising projects and community initiatives.

Moore and Readman agree their most popular fundraiser was the annual Canada Day rubber ducky race.

“It was kind of the finale for Canada Day,” Moore said. Since 1990, the race drew large crowds who cheered on scores of yellow plastic ducks which floated down the Gull River.

All the money raised went back into Haliburton County services.

“We figured we raised the money in the community so we should keep the money in the community,” Moore said.

‘Fall through the cracks’ fundraising

On a table in the Minden Lions Hall, Readman and Moore spread out photos and plaques from Lioness history. Smiling Lioness members are shown cooking meals together, posing with Santa and collecting money in nightgowns during the infamous Bedpan Blitz fundraiser.

Readman said the Lioness club worked hard as a team. One time, they spent all day rolling, cutting and baking pies in the local arena. “We were baking pies until we

dropped,” Readman said with a smile.

While the club didn’t have the membership to host large fundraisers or lotteries, Readman said they focused on community causes that might otherwise “fall through the cracks.”

One year, the Lioness club donated money to a man who needed \$75 for a heated blanket to stay warm in an unheated house.

Another Christmas, Readman remembers that they searched the community for a family who could use “a little extra help” buying gifts.

They often pitched in with delicious food - catering weddings, community functions and Lions meetings.

Both Lioness club members say raising money for a guide dog was one of their club’s biggest achievements.

“That was our big focus,” Readman said. “For years we put money aside.”

They finally hit the target: \$6,000. “For this club that was a lot of money,” Readman said.

After the club folds, they’ll be on the hunt for a Haliburton County resident who needs a seeing eye dog: the funds are reserved for the purchase of their canine companion.

The club has been spending the past weeks and months clearing out their bank account. They’ve sent money to the local cadet branch, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, camps around the region and multiple families in need.

No matter what, said Readman, the



Past presidents, Janet Readman and Kelly Moore. Photo by Sam Gillett.

Lioness legacy will live on.

“We made a pact, we’ll still meet together,” Readman said.

The club’s official history sums it up: “we are proud to be members of the Minden Lioness Club. We are only eight members, but we are mighty.”

Members of the Lioness club during its last year include: Pat Stiver, Moore, Readman, Deloris Bailey, Phyllis Sutherland, Greg Readman, Suzzane Best and Mary Scarr.



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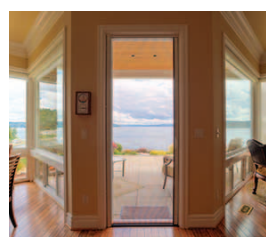
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Highlander community

‘Rock ride’ cancer fundraiser rumbles into Highlands

By Sam Gillett

A popular cancer fundraiser is expanding its annual two-wheeled photo hunt to the Haliburton Highlands.

Riders from around the province will be snapping selfies at notable Haliburton County locations – all while raising funds for cancer research.

The motorcycle-based Ride 4 Our Cancer Kids – called the Alphabet ROCK tour – has raised more than \$500,000 for childhood cancer research centres across Canada since it began.

Since 2003, Bob Thomas and his family have been organizing the event since Thomas’ daughter, Samantha, passed away after being diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Lymphoma in 2002.

Motorcycle riders around Ontario raise funds while taking selfies in front of marked landmarks which correspond to letters. The rider with the most landmarks checked off, and the rider who raises the most, win prizes.

While Thomas lives in Sarnia, he spent much of his life in Wilberforce: this year, he’s expanding the event so that riders can explore the County’s roads while searching for landmark locations.

“The most beautiful roads in the province are up in Haliburton, Bancroft,

Gravenhurst,” Thomas said.

There’s a fair number of riders who go up there on weekends and tour around,” Thomas said, “but I’ve never been able to bring that into the Rock Ride.”

Since COVID-19 meant the event is running virtually, all registration and fundraising takes place online: that means it’s easy for riders from anywhere near the landmark locations to take part.

Participants can snap selfies near the tank outside Haliburton’s legion, Cardiff’s dragonfly sculpture and many more local points of interest.

He said since the event is spaced out over multiple weeks, it’s the perfect year for Haliburton riders to get involved.

“This is the year built for them, up in that area,” Thomas said. “There’s so many roads out there to explore.”

He said he’s seen so many riders enthusiastically dive into fundraising – one participant has already raised more than \$5,000 this year.

“Some people really get into it, and that’s awesome,” Thomas said. “Our participants really tend to take it to heart, and really get out there and fundraise.”

For 52 days this summer, from June 4 to June 30, and July 1 to 26, riders can tour the province finding the letter locations.

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Bob Thomas and his family, pictured, organized the ‘ride for our cancer kids’ fundraiser after Samantha Thomas passed away after a battle with cancer just before her third birthday. Photo submitted by Bob Thomas.

each landmark, participants get an entry into a draw for a \$1,000 gas card. In place of the traditional event wrap-up, a virtual event will be held on July 31 to total up the amount raised.

So far this year, almost 50 riders have

taken part: the fundraising goal is \$30,000.

And no motorcycle is needed: this is the first year that cars can take part too.

“Anyone can do it,” Thomas said.

To learn more and register, visit rockride.com



Christmas comes early in Dorset

It may be more than six months away, but the Christmas spirit is alive and well in Dorset. Mike and Kate Hinbest, the new owners of Robinson’s General Store, have donated toys to the annual Salvation Army Christmas food and toy drive. Each year, the Dorset Lions Club, in cooperation with the Dorset Projects Group, collect food, toys and money for the Salvation Army.

From left to right: Lion club members Nancy and Santa Tom, Dorset Project Group representative Barb Townes and Robinson’s owners, Katie and Mike Hinbest. Photo submitted.

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Junior highlander

Local clubs provide recipes for change

By Sam Gillett

A new cookbook fundraiser produced by local community clubs aims to celebrate local cuisine while raising money for a school half-way around the world.

The “From the Heart of Haliburton” cookbook is a collection of recipes gathered from community members and produced by Haliburton Highland Secondary School’s Interact club, the local Rotary branch and Rotaract community club.

All the proceeds of the book’s sales will go directly to buying new school supplies and equipment for a school in southern India.

“It will have a huge impact. It’s a very basic school, in a basic concrete building – the money will go very far,” said Christine Carr, faculty advisor for the club.

“It will really help them have a more conducive learning environment for the students,” Carr said.

Over the years, HHSS has developed a school-to-school relationship with Mahatma Gandhi Sishu Siksha Sadan School near Kolkata. Haliburton’s Rotaract club also has a relationship with the school.

So far, the project has been a roaring success: they’ve doubled the size of their cookbook order due to early interest.

Logan Heaven, head of communications for the HHSS Interact club, said the idea came about after the group was brainstorming fundraisers which might address COVID-19-induced boredom.

“Everyone’s looking for something to do: we thought cooking would be a fun thing to do,” Logan said.

After HHSS Interact club collected recipes from around their community and sold ads to local businesses, Rotaract stepped in to help produce and distribute the cookbooks.

Scott Walling, a local artist and president-elect of the Rotaract club, illustrated the



Each cookbook is stuffed with recipes from community members around Haliburton County. Photo submitted by Christine Carr.

recipes and designed the cookbook with fellow Rotaract member Vivian Colling.

“It was a really nice collaborative effort, to be able to input my ideas, and have it work with what they were envisioning already, and have it come together quite nicely,” Walling said.

Interact club members went out and about in Haliburton collecting recipes; inside the cookbooks you’ll find everything from soups to scones. Cooks will also get to

leave feedback: each recipe is accompanied by a five-star rating system to fill in.

“Some [recipes] in there, I’ve never heard of in my life,” Heaven said, mentioning he’s excited to try out a blueberry scone recipe.

“I’m not really a cooking guy,” Heaven said with a laugh. “It’s hard!”

Walling said that no matter the skill level, the cookbook is all about community and helping out a school in need.

“It’s totally accessible to most people as well – it’s a great way to be involved with the community and be involved in Haliburton,” Walling said.

Each cookbook is \$20 – they’re expected to be available in the coming weeks. A link to order can be found on Rotaract’s Facebook page, RotaractHaliburtonHighlands

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Highlander environment

Rail trail advocates say renovations fall short

By Sam Gillett

Leona Carter doesn't remember the crash: her friend, cycling with her along the Haliburton County Rail Trail in 2019, does. "She said we were just riding along and suddenly she saw me just go flying over the handlebars," Carter said, standing on the rail trail near where the accident took place. After hitting a large rock protruding the trail's packed down gravel, Carter hit the ground head-first and lost consciousness. She only remembers waking up in the back of an ambulance.

In late May, the County announced it would use provincial and federal funds to improve safety on the trail, which is used solely by snowmobiles in the winter and a mix of ATVs, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians in the other seasons.

However, the Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) advocacy group say the renovations don't fully address the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

"Trail surface has always been a matter of concern. We'd like to think this funding announcement is good news, but there are caveats," wrote FoRT chairperson Pamela Marsales in an emailed statement.

"A surface treatment over an unstable base is like glossing over old, peeling paint."

Funds from \$196,616 which the County received as part of the Investing in Canada Plan will go towards gravel overlay on 30 kilometres of trail, new benches, 500 metres of barriers and numerous signs outlining the trail's history and ecological habitats.

But cyclists such as Marsales and Carter say that more needs to be done.

They say loose gravel is a difficult surface to cycle on, and large puddles, washed-away sections of trail and uncovered rocks are causing people to turn away from the trail system.

In an interview on the trail, Marsales said she's heard from "many, many people who



Pamela Marsales and Leona Carter often cycle and walk on the Haliburton County Rail Trail. They're worried about the trail's surface and safety. Photo by Sam Gillett.

said 'oh I tried riding my bike on it once and the surface was so bad I'd never go back there again'."

According to Marsales, FoRT was not contacted by Haliburton County before the County announced the planned renovations – nor were they consulted about what might improve a cycling experience.

"What I'd like to see is open communication about health and safety on this corridor," Marsales said.

Robert Sutton, director of public works for the County of Haliburton, wrote in an emailed statement that the County "have and continue to have numerous conversations, presentations, etc. from

various user groups and concerned stakeholders regarding the rail trail."

The County is set to host a Haliburton County Rail Trail roundtable discussion this summer at an undecided date.

According to Sutton, the granular overlay and compaction is a proven method for increasing the safety of the trail and rideability for cyclists.

"The existing granular base followed by the placement and compaction of granite screenings," Sutton wrote. "This treatment method has proven to be very effective for all users of this multi-use trail, including cyclists and pedestrians."

Marsales said work on the trail so far

hasn't resulted in safer riding conditions.

"The problem has been right from the beginning – I'd say since about 2005," Marsales said. "The surface hasn't been safe or adequate for all levels of cycling ability."

Sutton wrote he had a staff member follow up with Marsales and FoRT to hear specific concerns about the planned work on the trail.

In an email, Joel Bocknek of the Haliburton ATV Association said that the gravel overlay and other renovations wouldn't have "much of an impact" on their riding community.

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Highlander events



Stanhope markets return

It was a wet start to the Stanhope Farmers Market season on Friday, June 18. However, that did not deter hardy shoppers from coming out to support vendors on the opening day of this particular market. It will be held every Friday from noon to 4 p.m. over the summer, complementing the existing Haliburton markets on Tuesdays and Minden markets on Saturdays. (Lisa Gervais)

Left: Volunteers Sandy Dennison and Lauren Phillips greet people at the Stanhope farmers market June 18. Phillips said they are looking for volunteers. Right: Nancy Crego and Julie Allen of Country Fabric Crafts had a full booth. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



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Highlander outdoors

Stellar snowmobile season in Haliburton County

By Kirk Winter

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's (HCSA) 49th annual general meeting turned into a celebration of all things sledding May 29.

It also served as an opportunity for politicians to recognize the considerable economic benefit the activity creates in Haliburton County.

HCSA President Craig Bowker said the 2020-2021 winter "had been a year of exceptional highlights and some association records were broken."

John Enright, the club's first vice president, listed many achievements.

He also told *The Highlander* at the end of the season, that "we killed it. The association saw a 17 per cent increase in membership over the winter of 2019-2020 and delivered more grooming hours compared to previous years. There were also fewer equipment issues."

"It was awesome," Enright said. "The snow came late. We had a very strong finish and no January thaw."

Enright told the AGM the club's social media presence grew in leaps and bounds. The HCSA website had close to 75,000 visits this season from people looking for updated trail conditions. Followers on the association's Facebook page grew by 25 per cent year over year.

Other association presentations touched on higher numbers of volunteers turning

out for different projects: everything from brushing trails to posting signs to marking lake trails with more than 800 stakes. The Peter Overington Bridge crossing the Beech River had a \$54,000 facelift and a portion of the main trail linking Minden to the HCSA's 370-kilometre network was rerouted. Currently, the HCSA has a bucket list of over more than a dozen trail projects planned for the future.

The awards portion of the meeting saw second vice president Neil Vanderstoop named volunteer of the year for coordinating trail signage and other roles. Cole Finlay was named groomer operator of the year for his work as groomer coordinator. Tom Nicholson and Liz Jesseman received long service awards. Jim Richert and Enright will be inducted into the wall of fame. Many other volunteers were mentioned for their tireless efforts, including: Scott and Sherri Patterson, Marc Benoit, Carrie Reid, Fred Heinzler, Scott Doan, Elmo Lymburner and Christine Webster and family.

County of Haliburton Warden Liz Danielson told association members she appreciated attending the meeting "because of the tremendous contribution that snowmobiling makes to the Haliburton economy. That fact needs to be recognized more often and County council appreciates the work the association does."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts told the HCSA she valued the economic impact



The HCSA held its AGM May 29. *File.*

of snowmobiling, but asked the association what they were doing to mitigate the effects of climate change within their sport as winters continue to warm. The HCSA promised to respond in the near future.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy shared good news with the club saying the Haliburton Visitors' Centre will be open for the coming season providing washrooms and running water. Kennedy

also thanked the HCSA for its help in addressing illegal road usage and speeding issues created by some snowmobilers.

Directors for the coming season are: Bowker, Nicholson, Ted Roberts, Finlay, Noah Black, Enright, Margo Ross, Vanderstoop, and Marc Joanis. The directors elected a president and other members of the executive the week of June 7.

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by Julie Himel

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Highlander sports

Disc golf set to fly at Abbey Gardens

By Lisa Gervais

Laura Trach and her parents, Jane and Jim Trach, played a few holes of disc golf at Abbey Gardens' new course last week.

While tossing the discs, and walking from tee to green - which in this case is a metal basket - Jean said their neighbours in Ottawa introduced them to the sport in October. They live on two acres and created their own little course and played all winter long. "For us, it's a perfect cold weather exercise," Jane said.

It provided plenty of walking, Jim added, and was easy to social distance during COVID.

Jane added that for her it was also something to do during endless lockdowns and stay-at-home orders when they weren't socializing with anybody. She said it had also helped her fitness. When she began playing, she couldn't reach her hands to the ground due to bad hips and arthritis but now she can bend over to pick up a disc.

"It's fantastic," added Laura, who is new to the sport.

Abbey Gardens is launching its new Innova Disc Golf course on Canada Day, Thursday, July 1. It's located in the former gravel pit on the site.

It's a partnership between Innova Disc Golf course designer and business development for Canada's Darrel Bankes and the West Guilford establishment.

There's been a disc golf course in Head

Lake Park for years, so this is the second course of its kind in the County.

Bankes said the sport is "absolutely booming" and garnered a recent full-page spread in *The Globe and Mail*.

He said he was in the Highlands last fall on his way to a course in Huntsville when he ran into Thom Lambert.

"And he instantly dragged me over here to Abbey Gardens to meet the folks. So, then over the winter, we've been working on a partnership agreement ... to install this course in a way that allows us to take on the responsibility of building, designing and installing the course," he said.

Because it is a pay-to-play course, it will generate revenue for Abbey Gardens' programming.

They will be offering day passes and season passes for the course, which functions just like a golf course with different aesthetics and activities. It is a full 18-hole course with a short and long layout. It begins in the former gravel pit and then goes into the forest. The course is 6,000 feet in length.

Board member Brenda Smith said Bankes met with Heather Reid, who brought the idea to the board. They in turn met with Innova Disc Golf and toured a course, "and we thought it would be fantastic to use the pit for something physical."

Abbey Gardens director of operations, Ashley McAllister, said there's been a huge



Laura, Jane and Jim Trach tee-off a game of disc golf. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

interest already, even prior to opening. For the kick-off event, they are partnering with Haliburton Highlands Brewing and the Food Hub so visitors can experience the site.

Adult day passes will be \$10 for the day, and children \$5 including one disc. It is dog-friendly on-leash. The course can also be used for hiking. It will be a four-season offering. People can book at the hub or online.

"For us, it's a great fundraising

opportunity and it's a great way to do something at this time [during a pandemic]," McAllister said. She added it's allowing access to parts of the property they haven't used before.

"We don't really have something like this up here, especially the course that Darrell's designed, so for people to come for a hike, explore the property, get outside, have that safe social distancing and try a new sport."

See more on the Abbey Gardens website, abbeygardens.ca or at innovadiscs.com

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☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card# _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date ____ / ____

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Return by mail or give online:

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PO Box 348, 11 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
www.ywcapeterborough.org | 705-286-1942

With thanks to The Highlander for generously donating this ad.

Sports hall of fame

Hodgson tells of 'wild ride' dream NHL career

By Lisa Gervais

Cody Hodgson said his favourite hockey memories may well be playing in his first National Hockey League game with the Vancouver Canucks in 2010 and then scoring his first goal the very next night.

"I think being able to play in the NHL in any capacity is something I can look back at and be proud of," he said in an interview with *The Highlander*.

During his rookie season, the Canucks advanced to the Stanley Cup finals, missing out by one game as they lost game seven that year to the Boston Bruins.

Hodgson said, "it was a wild ride to the Stanley Cup finals with the Canucks. I was brand new so I got to see what it took to get to that position. It was an unfortunate ending, losing in game seven, but I will remember the excitement of the city and fans for a long time."

On the way to the NHL, Hodgson said some highlights were playing for Canada in a few different international tournaments: at the World Under 18 and World Hockey Championships.

"Winning gold at both is something I'll never forget."

Another favourite memory is going to the OHL junior hockey finals with the Brampton Battalion.

According to the Hall of Fame committee, Hodgson learned to skate in front of his house on Lake Kashagawigamog. He was

only four when he donned a Huskies jersey, just as his father and grandfather had done before him. The Tyke team boasted two players who would eventually play in the NHL, Hodgson and Matt Duchene.

He had a stellar junior career, playing four years with the Battalion, where he won the William Hanley Trophy (OHL's most sportsmanlike player), the Red Tilson Trophy (OHL player of the year), and the CHL Player of the Year Award.

After his brief stint in Vancouver, Hodgson was traded to the Buffalo Sabres in 2012, notching 44 goals and 55 assists over three years despite nagging injuries. He signed with the Nashville Predators in 2015.

However, he announced his retirement in 2016 after being diagnosed with malignant hyperthermia. He stopped playing but stayed on in Nashville to work with the Predators Youth Hockey program.

Hodgson said despite the early end to his career, he doesn't feel cheated.

"I feel that I was blessed to have played as long as I did. It was my dream, like a lot of Canadians, to play in the National Hockey League and I got to do that for six years. If I had known the dangers of playing as a child, the doctors probably wouldn't have allowed me to play at all, so I'm thankful for the time I did get."

He returns often to his home on Haliburton Lake, not far from the lumber operation his great-grandfather ran over 100



Cody Hodgson and his mother, Marie Hodgson. *File.*

years ago, and where the Hodgson clan has gathered for four generations.

He told *The Highlander* it's an honour to be named to the Hall.

"I feel very proud to come from a town of great athletes. Growing up I always aspired to be like them. I had many mentors from

the area that without them I wouldn't have been as successful in hockey. Growing up playing hockey for the Haliburton team and returning to train every off-season gave me a chance to see all the support that goes into athletics here. I'm very fortunate to be a product of this and grateful."

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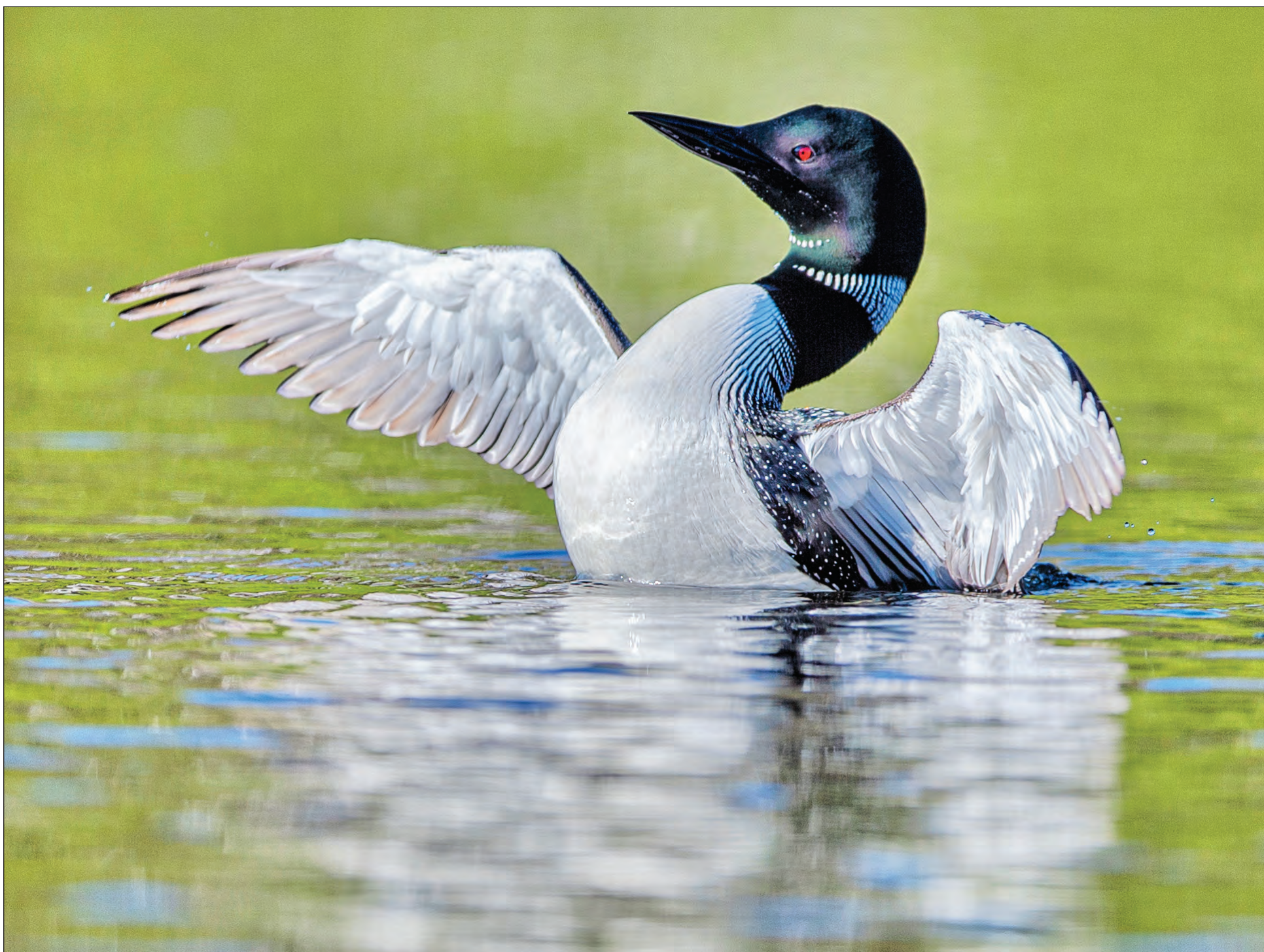
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Highlander people



A loon rears up out of the water in early June. Photo by Kevin Pepper

The 'loon whisperer' of Salerno Lake

By Sam Gillett

Across Salerno Lake's calm waters, it's easy to spot Kevin Pepper.

He's sporting a camo Blue Jays hat and a big grin; driving a small metal boat with blue pool noodle bumpers; hefting a camera with a camo-covered lens so large you need to hold it in both hands.

Most cottagers on the secluded lake – as well as thousands logging onto Facebook around the world – know exactly why he's out on the water, at 7 a.m., on a Monday morning.

He's checking on the loons.

Over the years, Pepper has developed a world-wide reputation as a loon photographer, chronicling the lifecycles of Salerno loons through the lens of his camera.

From the moment they land on the lake in the spring until they fly south in the fall, Pepper follows their lives on the lake, snapping thousands of pictures along the way.

And he has helped countless others experience the loons too in workshops that, until COVID-19, attracted photographers from Dallas to France.

On an early Monday morning, out on Salerno with *The Highlander*, Pepper explained how his love of loons began after he built a bunkie on the shores of the lake in 1996.

His wife noticed the loons and over time, watching them pass the dock was a morning tradition.

"I would know their morning pass-throughs, and I would make sure I'd be down there when they went by – that's how it kind of started," said Pepper.

In 2014, he left a full-time corporate position and began living at the lake nine months a year.

"I drove home from work for the last time on Oct. 31," Pepper said. "On Nov. 1, I was up in the morning, on my dock, with a cup of coffee, going to photograph loons by myself."

"When I say 'loon up,' you get your camera up," instructed Pepper. That's what he tells all the tourists who come out to see the loons: the birds are quick, and learning when to snap the shot has earned him his reputation.

He and his nephews had started a tour company that led photography workshops around the globe, but as they got steadily busier, Pepper stepped back to focus on loons and workshops at Salerno.

In his spacious cottage that overlooks the lake, he'd host photographers of all skill levels: from a Nikon brand representative to hobbyists with iPhones.

Some years he would lead up to 25 tours in a season, acting as the cook, cleaner, entertainer and resident photography expert.

Nando Tedeschi is an avid photographer who found Pepper after looking around Canada for the best places to capture loon photos.

"I was shocked because I had never seen a loon so close to me before," Tedeschi

said in a phone interview. "It was quite an experience."

Since 2015, Tedeschi has been making trips to Salerno to see the loons. He's become friends with Pepper and recently, he bought a slice of lakefront property with plans to build a cottage.

Tedeschi's experience on the lake mirrors that of many who hop in Pepper's boat. After each trip to Salerno, they leave with much more than snapshots.

"A picture is a picture," said Pepper, hefting his camera in the back of the boat. But the goal from any session he said is to "walk away with a memory."

Saving the loons

Pepper swivels in the boat, pointing to a large loon that floats nearby. He says he's learned how to pilot his boat in ways that ensure the loons aren't threatened or harmed: in fact, he and his cross-lake friend Wendy will spend many weekend

Highlander people

afternoons acting as an honour guard: sheltering loons from busy recreational boating traffic as they make their way across the lake to hunt and eat.

“That’s a tribute to Kevin,” said Tedeschi, mentioning how comfortable the loons seem to be with Pepper. “Kevin is passionate about the loons and their safety.”

The loons get to know his boat: one year while two parent loons were fending off attackers, a chick sought shelter right next to Pepper’s prop engine.

“I pride myself on that,” Pepper said. He chats about how many inexperienced – or careless – boaters don’t know how to drive safely around loons; a boat’s wake can damage nests.

He’s even seen boats that seem to try and run them down.

While Pepper is a fierce protector of the loons – he won’t tell anyone where their nests are – he loves to share their lives

with the lake’s seasonal and year-around residents.

The same loon who took shelter next to Pepper’s boat became a local celebrity. After uploading his photograph to the lake’s Facebook group, the community voted to give him a name.

Ever since, cottagers and lake visitors remember “Rider.”

“Everyone knew Rider,” Pepper said.

But like loons do every year, Rider became strong enough throughout the summer, and in the fall took flight – seeking warmth in the Carolinas.

In a small notebook, he keeps track of every part of the loon’s lifecycle – they arrived this year for the first time on April 4 at 10:44 a.m. That skillset has transferred into his workshops.

When guests arrive – often shaken from the drive on the cottage road that snakes

over steep hills – he gets them right out on the water to get used to photographing in a boat.

In the morning, they set off as early as 5 a.m. to catch loons in the sunrise glow.

“I tell them to try for the non-postcard shot,” said Pepper. He explains how the details of a loon, like its velvet feathers or the way water flows from its beak, are the reasons he keeps finding new photos to shoot. Each day on the water he usually shoots more than 300 photographs.

And he doesn’t sell them: “It’s my way of giving back,” he said, with a wide grin.

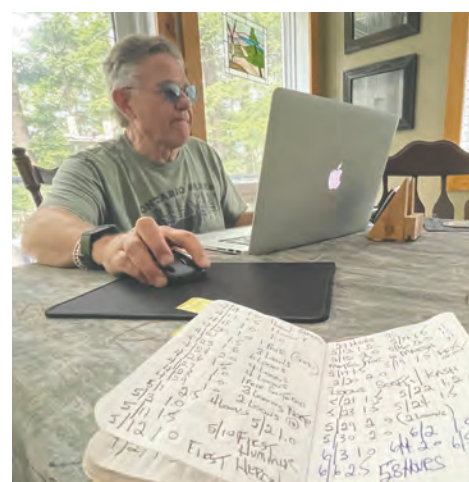
And he chooses two a day to post on Facebook, to bid the lake goodnight and good morning. Each post receives hundreds of likes, comments and shares – many from people around the globe who follow Salerno loons through Pepper’s lens.

In 2020, the world came to a screeching halt.

Tourists couldn’t come to Haliburton County, and they certainly couldn’t cross borders or stay with Pepper to go out on the loon watch.

Many were frustrated, some even argued they should be allowed to quarantine up at his cottage: “a lot of people didn’t understand,” said Pepper.

His voice is hushed: a loon floats nearby,



Pepper records data about the loons in a small notebook. Photo by Sam Gillett.

about 15 feet off the bow.

“I’ll be honest,” said Pepper, his eyes on the loon as it floats serenely in the morning sun, “If I could never lead a workshop again, I wouldn’t be too torn up about it.”

Tours and photos have never been the only thing that matters, he said. What matters is the loons – the chance to observe their lives and share them with others.

“I’m still doing what I do,” he said. “So, people can see it, and follow me, and still be part of it.”

“I was shocked because I had never seen a loon so close to me before. It was quite an experience.”

– Nando **Tedeschi**
photographer



With a telephoto lens and an uncanny ability to get close to loons, Kevin Pepper’s technique and skill have brought him acclaim as a photographer. Photo by Sam Gillett

HARP ON THE TRAIL

Editor's note: This is the first instalment of a fictional series entitled Harp on the Trail. It's written by Hope Thompson, who lives in Algonquin Highlands.

Chapter 1: Fantasy and reality

Holding a mug of coffee in his hand, Detective Harry Harp squinted out the window at a thermometer bracketed to the outside of his house. The mercury line hovered near 28 degrees - and it was only six in the morning. He retreated to the cool gloom of his living room, sat down on a chair, and put his feet up. The detective was an early riser and Saturday lay before him, empty of appointments and full of possibility. He could fix the dripping bathroom faucet, or he could cut the lawn, which was beginning to look like a wild meadow. If he wanted to stay inside, he could get out the vacuum, the duster, clean windows - .

But instead, he closed his eyes and thought about Brigitte Cave, a woman he had met the previous summer just after he had arrived in Spruce County. His mind drifted to the early days of their relationship. She was a local librarian, and he was a detective. To Harp, the relationship could not have been more perfect. He was drawn to her instantly and was relieved that she seemed to like him, too. And then, after six months of bliss (in his books, anyway) she broke the news that she was moving to another library a few counties away. She'd been excited. The new position offered more responsibility and took her a few rungs up the pay scale. They had made plans to phone, to visit - to stay in touch.

Harp drank the last of his coffee then placed the empty mug on a side table where it made an imprint in the dust.

At the time, he'd wanted to say, "Don't go!" but he couldn't bring himself to stand in the way of her career - or to admit his feelings.

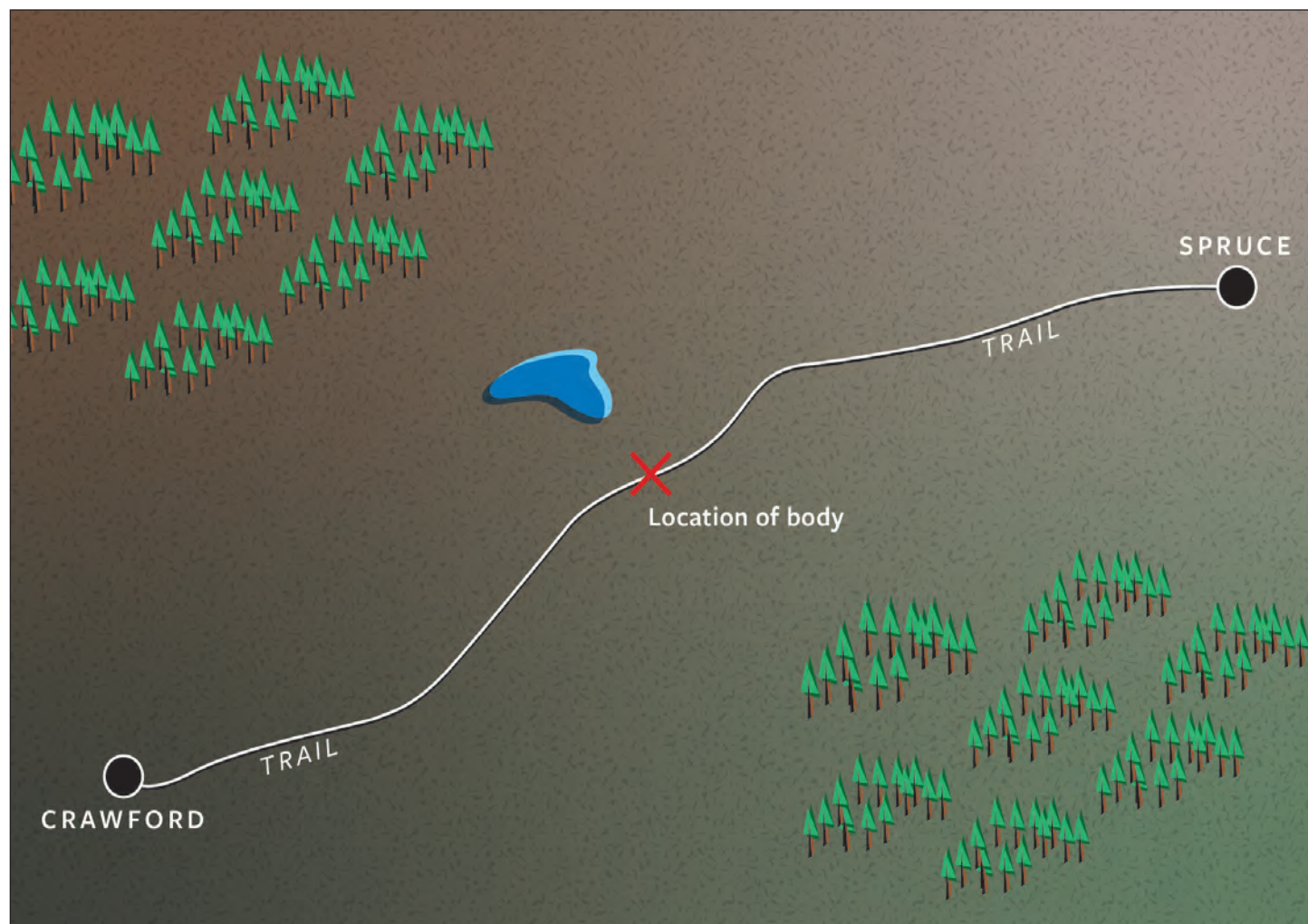
I should've gone after her. Maybe I still can? And he imagined himself pushing open the door of the library like a sheriff in a Western movie and marching up to the circulation desk and declaring, "Brigitte? I'm here to take you away." He pictured her jumping into his arms and - .

His phone buzzed. "Harp," he said, shaking himself back to reality. As he listened, his eyes narrowed and a moment later, the house was empty.

Situated in Ontario's cottage country region, Spruce County was known for its sparkling lakes, abundant forests and rolling terrain. The County was also home to two towns - the villages of Spruce and of Crawford - and a former railway joined them together. The tracks had long ago been removed and the rail bed converted into a public trail. But today, the public wasn't using the trail. Instead, a cluster of police officers and a team of forensic technicians methodically studied the path - and the ditch that ran beside it.

Constable Terry Becker waved at the detective. "Morning, sir."

Short, muscular, and tanned, to Harp, Becker seemed both relaxed and professional. Today, as every day, he wore cargo pants and an ironed, cop-issue shirt. Harp looked at his own formless garments that had seen nothing but the inside of a



tumble dryer.

Becker gestured at a man and a woman in matching hiking clothes standing about twenty feet away. "They found him. About half an hour ago. On their morning walk."

Harp followed the constable to the edge of the trail. Twenty feet down he saw a ditch thick with bullrushes and some of them were bent back by the weight of a human body.

Becker said, "No identification, either."

Harp's first impression was that the young man was sleeping. He was wearing a black hoodie and jeans and his face was partly obscured by the vegetation growing around him. The front of his hoodie was peeled back from his body, revealing a white T-shirt, part of which had turned deep red. Harp crawled down the mossy embankment and peered closely at the young man's face, at his acne marks, his dark hair, his green eyes - open yet unseeing. The detective fought back a sudden feeling of sadness.

"Good morning!" Spruce County Coroner Anna Lau stared down at him, her body encased in a white protective suit. She was new to the area and Harp found her sensitivity and optimism refreshing, even in the face of death.

"Hello!" Harp said climbing up to her. "So?" He caught his breath. "First impressions?"

"Well. He has a bullet wound to the chest which was likely the cause of death. But give me 24 hours and you'll have my full

report." And then she shook her head. "Poor kid. So young."

A few minutes later, Harp and Becker approached the couple huddled nearby. They stood arm-in-arm and were in their sixties, lightly graying, lined and lean.

Harp introduced himself and Constable Becker.

"Gary Shipton." The man said, then gestured to the diminutive, blonde-haired woman beside him. "And this is my wife, Didi."

"Tell me about this morning," Harp said quietly.

Gary shrugged. "Well, we were out for our morning constitutional - ."

Didi cut in, "We power walk. And we don't chit chat. We like to be present with nature, with our bodies." She looked in the direction of the young man and her features softened. "I was looking at the bullrushes, listening to birdsong - thinking how beautiful nature is - when I saw him." Her voice caught in her throat.

Harp said, "Do you know the young man? Have you seen him before?"

They both shook their heads.

Becker said, "You go walking at five in the morning? That's pretty early."

Didi's chin shot up in the air. "We have to. It's the only way to avoid the ATVs! Once they get here, this trail is just another road - stinking with exhaust fumes and noise. Those machines are a scourge - ."

Gary cut in. "Look - are we free to leave?"

Harp nodded. "We'll be in touch if we have questions."

Gary and Didi turned on their reinforced heels and power walked away, their bodies shrinking in the distance.

"She really does not like ATVs," Harp said.

"Probably never driven one either,"

Becker said. "The thing is, ever since the County gave ATVs the right to use the trail, well, there have been some incidents."

Harp frowned, "Such as?"

"Last summer, before you moved here, a dog was hit by one." Becker said. "The dog's owner claimed the driver ran it over on purpose. The driver claimed the dog wasn't on a leash."

Standing in the ditch, Lau's technicians gently lifted the young man's body onto a stretcher, then passed it up the embankment, hand over hand. The hot silence of the forest pressed down on Harp and a bead of sweat slid into his eye, blurring his vision. He blinked. The scene seemed unreal - like he was looking at a painting he'd seen once in a church of Christ's body being carried from the cross.

The constable's voice pulled him back to reality.

"There's a lot of anger in the community," Becker said.

The dead body disappeared into the back of a waiting ambulance and Harp thought about that anger - and how it had just turned into murder.

Highlander classifieds



Municipality of Dysart et al *In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands*

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT,
GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 8, 2021, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Submitted tenders will be opened virtually by Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting using the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEgdeGogTouHtHU04iVBto0WudCOBPuF8VI> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 26200 0000; 18 South St., Haliburton; PIN 39182-0042(R); Part Lot 17, Concession 7, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde, designated as Parts 1,2,3,4 & 7 Plan 19R-6764. Subject to a Right-of-Way over, along and upon that part of Lot Number 17 Concession 7 designated as Parts 2 & 4 Plan 19R-6764. Together with a Right-of-Way over, along and upon that part of Lot Number 17 Concession 7 designated as Parts 5 & 6 Plan 19R-6764, in the Registry Division of the County of Haliburton. Land Registry Office No. 19; File No. 18-11
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$103,000
Minimum tender amount: \$16,193.45

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 28600 0000; Fred Jones Road, Haliburton; PIN 39182-0076 (LT); PT LT 19 CON 7 DYSART AS IN DY4389 BTN DRAG RIVER, DOVER SPRING RD & H148755; DYSART ET AL; File No. 18-30
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$27,500
Minimum tender amount: \$5,535.91

3. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 13100 0000; Guilford, Ontario; PIN 39146-0130 (LT); LT 38 PL 580; DYSART ET AL; File No. 18-34
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$19,800
Minimum tender amount: \$5,464.53

4. Roll No. 46 24 061 000 29600 0000; On Dennison Island in Kawagama Lake; PIN 39113-0134 (LT); PT LT 2 CON 14 HAVELOCK AS IN H70873; DYSART ET AL; File No. 19-05
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$396,000
Minimum tender amount: \$22,942.40

5. Roll No. 46 24 030 000 03801 0000; Harcourt, Ont; PIN 39159-0275 (LT); PT LT 4 CON 1 HARCOURT AS IN HR662 N OF H134516 & PT 1 19R3946 & S OF H131882; S/T HR662; DYSART ET AL; File No. 19-12
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$23,000
Minimum tender amount: \$5,043.74

6. Roll No. 46 24 050 000 72300 0000; Johnson Bay Rd., Haliburton; PIN 39284-0170 (LT); LT 147 PL 524; DYSART ET AL; File No. 19-29
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$189,000
Minimum tender amount: \$9,786.11

7. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 20300 0000; Guilford, Ontario; PIN 39146-0134 (LT); LT 108 PL 581; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000273, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 99-0000132, IF ENFORCEABLE; DYSART ET AL; File No. 19-34
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$19,600
Minimum tender amount: \$4,995.56

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, availability of road access or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale contact:

Rachael Velkovski
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
705-457-1740 Ext. 639
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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SIRCH Community Services is a charitable organization in Haliburton County with a variety of programs and social enterprises that contribute to community health by reducing poverty, increasing food security, augmenting employment resilience and promoting community connection.

We are looking for a well organized, supportive individual who loves variety and a fast paced work environment to join our dynamic team.

For a complete job description please
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To apply, send your cover letter
and resume to info@sirch.on.ca



an unwavering belief in people and possibilities

We are looking for a summer, part-time CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ASSISTANT.

Experience with infants and toddlers required.

Must be able to assist in developing and running activities for children, be sensitive to issues affecting families and have a good understanding of the demands of motherhood. You will work as part of a team for two, half-days per week plus planning time.

Send resume and cover letter
to info@sirch.on.ca



an unwavering belief in people and possibilities

CHEF and FOOD SERVICES TRAINER WANTED

SIRCH Community Services, a charitable organization in Haliburton, has a year-round food services training program, a Community Kitchen that prepares and gives out free, nutritious meals, and a Bistro that is open to the public to give trainees practice in cooking and serving exemplary food. We are looking for a Chef with experience creating nutritious food who would love to mentor others and provide practical training to adult students. You would be working with our Kitchen Coordinator and other cooks, bakers, and trainees on site in Haliburton. It is a full time permanent position.

To apply send a cover letter and resume to Gena Robertson, Executive Director, SIRCH Community Services via email at info@sirch.on.ca. For more information call 705-457-1742.



DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Procurement and Grants Coordinator

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our finance team in the role of Procurement and Grants Coordinator. A detailed job description is available at <https://www.dysartetel.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx> for your review.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Laura Casey at lcasey@dysartetel.ca, and indicate **Procurement and Grants Coordinator** as the subject. Applications must be submitted via email and may be accepted until 4:30 pm on Friday July 9, 2021.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.



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Can be full time, or part time with regular hours.

Please contact Cathy Smith at
office@lebolaw.ca.

Editorial opinion

Reader doesn't think we're 'overrun' by tourists

By Alan C. Smith

April 11 was a day of high winds in Haliburton County. It was a day when the wind was so strong that it was blowing the tops of the trees over. It was a day when the wind was so strong that it was blowing the tops of the trees over.

Disappointed in coverage

By Alan C. Smith

After reading the front page article in the June 23, 2021 issue of The Highlander, I was disappointed in the coverage of the fire at the Haliburton Hotel.

Health care and the Internet

By Alan C. Smith

Much has been reported about high speed Internet in Haliburton County. It is a topic that is of interest to many people in the community.

Cold comfort from fashion faux pas

By Alan C. Smith

It is a cold day in Haliburton County. It is a day when the temperature is in the single digits. It is a day when the temperature is in the single digits.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

By Alan C. Smith

A single woodpecker sits on a branch in a forest in Haliburton. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

A single woodpecker sits on a branch in a forest in Haliburton. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

A single woodpecker sits on a branch in a forest in Haliburton. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

A single woodpecker sits on a branch in a forest in Haliburton. Photo by Alan C. Smith.

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Have an opinion?

Send your letters to

editor@thehighlander.ca

(300 words max)

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



JOB POSTING: CLINICAL MANAGER (FULL-TIME)

Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Clinical Manager will provide leadership and supervision. The ideal candidate will have a relevant graduate degree, registration with a professional college (OCSWSSW or CRPO), and 10+ years of experience in mental health and supervision, with a keen interest in the issues currently impacting the children, youth, and parents in our community.

Point in Time is committed building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equity-seeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.

Visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description. Please send cover letter and resume to HR@pointintime.ca by Friday, July 9, 2021.

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Individuals needed to cut and split firewood. All necessary equipment supplied. Call 705-935-0950

Nanny needed - Our family is looking for a caring, responsible, outgoing, and outdoorsy nanny to care for our two girls (1 & 3 years old). The part-time position is two to three days a week between Monday and Friday. Some flexibility for days and times. To reply, please contact 519-242-6021 or email resume to jessicaruthgood@gmail.com

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Billeting families will be financially compensated and also will receive two season tickets per home game.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a billet family, please reach out to Jess Jackson at huskieshousing@hotmail.com

VISIT HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

OBITUARY



In loving memory of Barrie Sisson

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at the age of 67.

Dear father of Mark, Teri & her family, and step-father of Kaila & her family. Brother of Dolores, Elois, Sharon, Darol, Russell and Zelda. A special thanks to Angela, Kurt, Ray and Dianne.

It was Barrie's wish for a celebration of life, cremation has taken place.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

THANK YOU

Thank You

Allan and Ellenore wish to thank all who made our 65th Wedding Anniversary such a memorable day, and for all the flowers, e-mails, cards and phone calls.

Also, for all the people who made the drive by such fun.

Special thanks to the Time Travellers Car Club (12- 15 cars)

Special thanks to Nancy and Kirby for organizing such a fun day for us.

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1	B	2	A	3	S	4	A	5	L	6	T	7	P	8	O	9	X	10	M	11	B	12	A	13	S
14	O	H	Y	E	A	H		15	A	Y	E		16	A	R	U	T								
17	M	A	N	I	C	E	18	A	T	E	R		19	R	E	N	E								
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54	P	R	E	Y		55	P	I	Z	Z	A	P	57	A	N	I	C								
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61	T	O	M	E		62	S	A	P		63	S	N	I	P	E	S								

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your photos of Haliburton County to editor@thehighlander.ca



YARD SALES

Our Annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale
at 1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden. Thursday July 1st 8am-6pm. Friday July 2nd 8am-4pm. Saturday July 3rd 8am-4pm. Be sure to check it out! Lots of items for sale.

Yard Sale Friday, July 2 & Saturday, July 3
from 8 am to 2 pm. 1017 Summerville Rd on Hwy 503 west of meat shop in Gooderham

Yard Sale – Saturday, July 3 8am-3pm & Sunday, July 4 8am-3pm 614 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden. Large variety of items including tools & small kitchen appliances.

Yard Sale - 16 Highland Gate Blvd & Knob Hill Court, Minden.
Saturday July 3 8am - 2pm.
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THANK YOU

THANK YOU COMMUNITY

The Minden Lioness Club wish to thank the Community of Minden and the Minden & District Lions Club for all their support over the past 35 years, while we raised money to help our fellowman.

It is with sad hearts that effective June 30, 2021, the Minden Lioness Club will no longer assist. It is not a decision that we as a Club have made, but that of our Lions International organization. Effective July 1, 2021 ALL LIONESS CLUBS around the world will fold, due to our insurance being cancelled.

Over the years we have seen members come and go, but we have always been able to raise money with a very small active club. At the moment our membership is only 8, BUT 8 very dedicated LIONESS.

Our Club is best known for our annual RUBBER DUCKY RACE down the Gull River, over 30 years we sold tickets, looked for lost ducks, retrieved and washed ducks. Selling out most years, and having a lot of fun doing it.

Other fundraisers were, Bingo, selling Nevada tickets, pie sales, bake sales, selling saran and foil, yard sales, catering, Country Jamboree, Irish Stew night and a food booth at the Kinmount Fair. I know there were many more, but these were our major ones. We also, entered the Santa Claus parades, handed out candy and helped our Lions when asked.

In doing so, we raised thousand of dollars for our community and Lions Objective like taking up Hellen Keller's challenge to fight blindness and the deafness.

Our greatest donation we made was \$6000.00 to purchase a Seeing Eye Dog through our Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide School in Oakville. If anyone in our community is blind and in need of a guide dog, there is money in trust waiting for a qualified candidate from our area. Contact the Minden Lions, they will notify one of us. Even though our Club has to fold, some of us will continue helping our community as Lions.

Since COVID-19, hit last year, we have not been able to fundraise or have regular meetings but, we will have donated \$3300.00 from September 2020 until the end of June 2021.

With sad hearts, we the LIONESS OF MINDEN, wish to say THANK YOU, for supporting us over 35 years, leaving us with wonderful memories.

Lioness Phyllis Sutherland (1988-2021), Lioness Janet Readman (1988-2021), Lioness Kelly Moore (1994-2021), Greg Readman (1997-2021), Lioness Pat Stiver (2011-2021), Lioness Deloris Bailey (2011-2021), Lioness Suzanne Best (2013-2021), and Lioness Mary Scarr (2018-2021)

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		3	2	4	7		8	1
		2	5	9		3		4
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			4			5		
				5				
		1			2			
	1							6
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6	8		1	2	5	4		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

4	9	8	3	5	2	7	6	1
7	5	2	4	1	6	9	3	8
3	1	6	7	9	8	2	5	4
8	2	1	9	6	5	4	7	3
6	7	4	8	2	3	1	9	5
9	3	5	1	4	7	8	2	6
1	6	9	2	3	4	5	8	7
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14	R	E	P	L	Y		15	N	O	H		16	G	E	T	N	O			
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20	W	H	I	T	E	O	L	E	A		21	N	D	E	R					
22	L	U	S	T		23	P	E	R	R	O		24	C	T	25	R	26	L	
	27	T	H	E		28	B	L	A	C	K	D	29	A	H	L	I	A		
					30	D	A	I	S	Y			31	B	E	E	P	S		
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39	A	I	R	40	S	A			41	P	U	R	L	42	S					
43	S	T	E	E	L	44	M	45	A	G	N	O	L	46	A	47	S			
48	A	S	O	N		49	A	F	A	S	T		50	T	R	I	P			
		52	W	A	R	O	F	T	H	E	54	R	O	S	E	S				
55	56	S	A	N	T	A		57	R	O	O	M	I	N	E	S	S			
58	T	H	E	O	K		59	A	U	T		60	T	I	N	T	S			
61	P	A	D	R	E		62	Y	R	S		63	A	T	E	A	T			

Aha, Now I C!

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**

 - 1 Dark, igneous rock
 - 7 Word with chicken or small
 - 10 Diplomas for aspiring CEOs
 - 14 "Ya kiddin' me?"
 - 15 Aberdeen agreement
 - 16 In ___ (going nowhere)
 - 17 Dinner guest who's bouncing off the walls?
 - 19 Québec's Lévesque
 - 20 "Yes Minister" network
 - 21 Write "dele" or "stet"
 - 22 Internet connection?
 - 23 Innocent miss with a wry sense of humour?
 - 26 Hissed "Hey!"
 - 28 "___ me" (blackjack request)
 - 29 Unlikely sizes for CFL players
 - 30 This or that, in Trois-Rivières
 - 31 Result of pulling the goalie
 - 34 Bomb bigtime in a debate?
 - 38 Six- ___ (tall types)
 - 39 M ÷ IV
 - 40 Gibbon, e.g.
 - 42 Actor Wheaton
 - 43 Add fuel to the fire
 - 45 Milk pail on an old country farm?
 - 49 About 39 inches
 - 50 Common lunch time
 - 51 Fanatic fan's feeling
 - 54 Hen, to a fox
 - 55 Anxiety when the Domino's delivery arrives?
 - 58 Meeting agenda subject
 - 59 IMer's "I did NOT need to know that!"
 - 60 Canadian ___ (home/crafts magazine)
 - 61 Heavy reading?
 - 62 Easy target on April 1
 - 63 Snide remarks

- Down**

 - 1 Explosive after H, or expletive after F
 - 2 Moby's hunter
 - 3 Lip ___ contest
 - 4 Vowel string

- 5 Bodice tighteners
 - 6 No earlier and no later, with "on"
 - 7 Page of country music?
 - 8 "___ of little faith...": Matthew 8:26
 - 9 Gen-___ (thirtysomething)
 - 10 Day before "mercredi"
 - 11 Slender alternative to soup crackers
 - 12 Relative of Dorothy
 - 13 Some Dutch paintings
 - 18 Get an ___ (ace the course)
 - 22 "... could ___ fat, his wife ..."
 - 23 Kid's retort to a doubter
 - 24 Kasparov's game
 - 25 Restaurant freebie
 - 26 Toxin banned by Env. Cda. in 1977
 - 27 Inner pride
 - 31 Butter wt., often
 - 32 Word before a signature on a cheque
 - 33 ___ Center (Disney World attraction)
 - 35 "Holy smokes!"
- 36 Suffix with neur- or narc-
 - 37 Key to "la porte"
 - 40 Secret target
 - 41 Rico or Vallarta
 - 43 Chorus of "Cheers!", in Oslo
 - 44 It may be bowled over in an alley
 - 46 "You think I won't?"
 - 47 Open a pencil case
 - 48 Unc's kid
 - 51 Feel ___ in the air
 - 52 Stain treatable with club soda
 - 53 Stress test readouts
 - 55 Ale amts.
 - 56 "___ bad, bad boy ..." (Nazareth lyric)
 - 57 Prefix meaning "bird"

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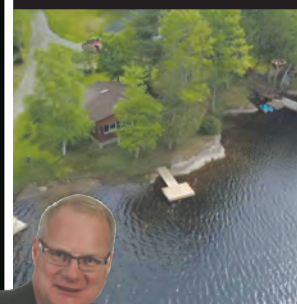


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- 1130 ft frontage around island, deep rock & sand shoreline
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- Grandfathered building envelope for future development



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\$349,900 TAMARACK LAKE

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- On a quiet motor restricted lake
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\$150,000 RUSSEL CREEK

- 2.35 acre, 450 feet road frontage, private lot
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- New septic (not hooked to house), drilled well, hydro at road
- Workshop attached to house, 3 bay drive shed
- Being sold "as is"

MEET THE TEAM



Chris Smolarz*

Chris James*

Marcia Bell*

Anthony vanLieshout**

Erin Nicholls*

"We had an excellent experience with Anthony and his team. They were organized, communicated well, and helped us at every turn. I highly recommend their services!"

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